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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE 36 MAR 5 AM 8 26

INFO : HELGRADE, BERLIN (EAS), BOMB, BUCHAREST, BUDAPEST, LONDON,
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WARSAW

FROM : AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

DATE: March 1, 1966.

SUBJECT : Alleged Lithuanian War Criminal in U.S.

REF :

On February 25 Izvestiya published an article by the editor of the Lithuanian paper Tiesa, G. ZIMANAS, in which he accused a former Lithuanian citizen named IMPULAVICHUS of collaboration during the Nazi occupation of Lithuania, and of leading a punitive mission in the village of Pircupis in 1944 when the entire population of the village was burned or shot. Impulavichus, according to the article, now lives in Philadelphia. Zimanas wrote that a group of American newspapermen recently had visited the site of the massacre, and that the New York Times correspondent (unnamed) had reported the incident in "reasonably correct" terms. But he was immediately attacked by the editors of "bourgeois nationalist" newspapers in the United States, who asserted that the massacre actually had been carried out by Communist Lithuanian partisans. The strongest investigative of the article was reserved for these editors, presumably of Baltic emigre newspapers:

...who for the most part are people who were mixed up in active collaboration with Hitler's troops. They headed occupation organizations and helped to drive Soviet people into hard labor in fascist Germany, took part in the mass murders of the peaceful population and the plunder of Lithuania. In the suitcases and safes of several of them are still kept the gold teeth pulled out of the jaws of the people they shot, and the rings they cut off their victims, together with the fingers.

Zimanas then told of an American doctor who recently had visited Lithuania, and had described a patient in the United States (who had served the Nazis in Lithuania) who could not sleep because he was constantly

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from MOSCOW

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to be followed by visions of mass shootings and the hallucination that his hands were covered with blood. Noting that this man's conscience evidently was "considerably more severe than United States Justice", which refused to turn such collaborators over to Soviet courts for punishment, Zimanas (himself the former First Secretary of the southern underground regional Communist Party committee in Lithuania during the war) predicted that the patient's efforts to assuage his conscience by contributing money to good works never would succeed, even with the help of the emigre newspapers which attempted to deny both his, and their, guilt for such war crimes.

The article went on to suggest that the American press follows a sort of division of labor in such matters:

The national press spreads lies and slander, while the official press of the USA assumes the pose of knowing nothing about it.

Characterizing these alleged efforts to distort the truth as a "rusty weapon", which is most dangerous to the person who uses it, Zimanas concluded with the proclamation that the glorious deeds of the Lithuanian partisans had become an eternal part of the proud heritage of present-day Lithuania, which he asserted has achieved its greatest material and spiritual flowering under Soviet power.

For the Ambassador:

D. E. Boster

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